

Waste, Recycling and Circular Economy

**Innovation Awards**

Application form 2025

Once completed, email this form to George Barton at **gbarton@apse.org.uk.**

All forms must be submitted by the closing date on **Thursday 2 October 2025**

**Section 1 - Profile**

Name:

Position:

Authority/Organisation:

Address:

Telephone: Mobile:

E-Mail:

**Section 2 – Submission Summary**

*Please provide a short summary of your project and highlight the contribution this has made to council services. The statement should be 100 words or less.*

Name of council/team:.

Please select the category that you are submitting for:

(If you are submitting for more than one category, please fill out a separate form for each submission)

Category 1: **Local Authority Circular Economy Innovation Award**

* This is for an authority that is leading the way on the circular economy initiatives, going above and beyond recycling, and up the waste hierarchy.
  + This could include reuse and/or repair schemes at HWRCs, reuse shops, repair cafes in the community, and anything that stands out in making significant effects in reducing the amount of items that would otherwise be disposed of or sent for conventional recycling.

Category 2: **Making ‘hard-to-recycle’ easier innovation award**

* Whilst there has been a lot of focus on Simpler Recycling materials and food waste collections, this award is to recognise councils that have shown innovation and an effective service making it easier for residents to recycle traditionally ‘hard to recycle’ items, whether at the kerbside or in the community, this could include:
  + WEEE, batteries, vapes, textiles, soft plastics, bulky waste, cooking oil, etc

Category 3: **Innovation in behaviour change**

* This is for any local authority led project showing best practice and innovation to increase recycling, participation and/or reducing contamination in line with Simpler Recycling requirements.
* This can apply to effective campaigns focusing on households, communal properties and/or council-run trade waste customers and can be for the whole community or targeted campaigns working with community groups.
* We’re looking for innovation and creativity, going above and beyond traditional methods such as leaflets and stickers, but also interested in use of social media, community events, etc with real evidence of success.

Project title:

**Section 3 – Council Statement**

*This is where you can demonstrate your innovative work and explain your submission in detail. Please write 500 words or less on a project of your choosing. Your submission should include a description of the problem or challenge faced, the innovative approach taken to remedy it, and the outcomes that have been achieved.*

*Please use the hints and tips on the next page to help your submission.*

**Hints and Tips**

These awards are to recognise the excellent work that is happening in the waste and recycling sector. The ideal submission will contain a description of the problem or challenge faced, the innovative approach taken, and the outcomes achieved. Specifically, we are looking for councils that are contributing to the development of new initiatives, and of new working methods in their authority.

To grab the panels’ attention, write your statement well. Show that you have taken the time to submit a high-quality application. Use proper English and check your spelling and punctuation. **Please stick to the allocated word counts.**

Here are a few ideas that you may use to write your application. Please bear in mind that these are only ideas. You may choose to write about:

* a service redesign
* new training techniques
* use of new materials or equipment
* new methods of responding to or communicating with the public

**Please note that the closing date for submissions is Thursday 2 October. Email your completed form to George Barton at** [**gbarton@apse.org.uk**](mailto:gbarton@apse.org.uk)

The APSE Waste and Recycling Seminar will explore the future of the sector and new legislation including simpler recycling and extended producer responsibility. We will also look at the circular economy and key innovations. [**You can find out more and book your place here**](https://apse.org.uk/index.cfm/apse/events/apse-waste-and-recycling-seminar-2025/).

**Dates to remember:**

* Submissions to be returned no later than **Thursday 2 October**
* Shortlisted submissions will be informed no later than **Thursday 9 October**
* The Awards will be presented at this year’s APSE Waste and Recycling Seminar in Nottingham, on 23 October 2025

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